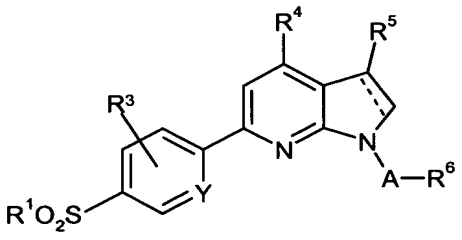
**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in which:

Y is selected from the group consisting of CH or nitrogen;

$R^1$ is selected from the group consisting of $C_{1-6}$alkyl, $NH_2$ and $R^2CONH$;

$R^2$ is selected from the group consisting of H, $C_{1-6}$alkyl, $C_{1-6}$alkoxy, $C_{1-6}$alkyl$OC_{1-6}$alkyl, phenyl, $HO_2CC_{1-6}$alkyl, $C_{1-6}$alkyl$OCOC_{1-6}$alkyl, $C_{1-6}$alkyl$OCO$, $H_2NC_{1-6}$alkyl, $C_{1-6}$alkyl$OCONHC_{1-6}$alkyl and $C_{1-6}$alkyl$CONHC_{1-6}$alkyl;

$R^3$ is selected from the group consisting of H and halogen;

$R^4$ is selected from the group consisting of H, $C_{1-5}$alkyl, and $C_{1-2}$alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms;

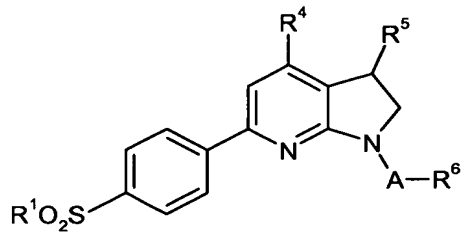
$R^5$ is selected from the group consisting of H, CHO, and $C_{1-6}$alkyl which is unsubstituted or is substituted one or more times by halogen or hydroxy;

A is $(CH_2)_n$ or $-SO_2-$;

$R^6$ is selected from the group consisting of $C_{1-6}$alkyl, $C_{4-8}$ cycloalkyl, phenyl and 6-membered heteroaryl, wherein the phenyl and 6-membered heteroaryl ring may be unsubstituted or substituted one or more times by halogen or $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; and

n is 0 to 3.

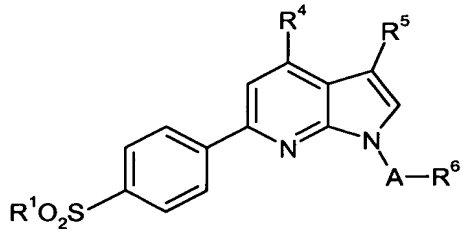
2. (Original) A compound of formula (IA)



(IA)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in which all substituents are as for a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1.

3. (Original) A compound of formula (IB)



(IB)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in which all substituents are as for a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 3~~ wherein $R^1$ is $C_{1-6}$alkyl.

5. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 4~~ wherein $R^4$ is H, $CHF_2$, $CH_2F$, $CF_3$ or $C_{1-4}$alkyl.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 5~~ wherein $R^5$ is H, $C_{1-4}$alkyl, -CHO, or $-(CH_2)_nCH_2OH$.

7. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to 6~~ wherein $R^6$ is $C_{3-5}$alkyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl optionally substituted by $C_{1-3}$alkyl, or phenyl optionally substituted by halogen.

8. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to 7~~ wherein n is 0 or 1.

9. (Original) A compound according to claim 3 wherein $R^1$ is $C_{1-3}$alkyl, $R^4$ is H, $CHF_2$, $CH_2F$, $CF_3$ or $C_{1-4}$alkyl, $R^5$ is H, $C_{1-4}$alkyl, -CHO, or -$CH_2OH$, n is 1, and $R^6$ is $C_{3-5}$alkyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl optionally substituted by $C_{1-3}$alkyl, or phenyl optionally substituted by halogen.

10. (Original) A compound according to claim 3 wherein $R^1$ is $C_{1-3}$alkyl, $R^4$ is H, $CHF_2$, $CH_2F$, $CF_3$ or $C_{1-4}$alkyl, $R^5$ is H, $C_{1-4}$alkyl, -CHO, or -$CH_2OH$, n is 0, and $R^6$ is phenyl optionally substituted by halogen.

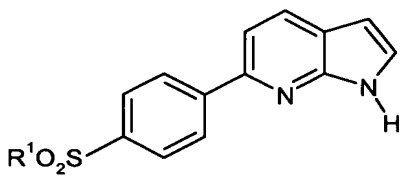
11. (Original) A compound according to claim 3 wherein $R^1$ is $CH_3$, $R^3$ is H, $R^4$ is H, $R^5$ is H, $C_{1-4}$alkyl, -CHO, or -$CH_2OH$, A is $(CH_2)_n$ and n is 1, and $R^6$ is $C_{3-5}$alkyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl optionally substituted by $CH_3$, or phenyl optionally substituted by chloro.

12. (Original) A compound according to claim 3 wherein $R^1$ is $CH_3$, $R^3$ is H, $R^4$ is H, $R^5$ is H, A is $(CH_2)_n$ and n is 0, and $R^6$ is phenyl optionally substituted by fluoro.

13. Canceled.

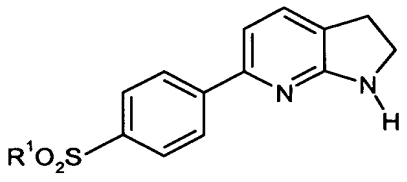
14. (Original) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (IA), as defined in claim 2, where each of $R^4$ and $R^5$ is hydrogen, which comprises:

reducing a compound of formula (III)



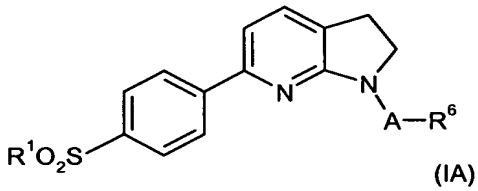

(III)

to form a compound of formula (VIII);



(VIII)

reacting said compound of formula (VIII) with a compound $R^6$-A-X, or a protected derivative thereof, where X is a halogen, such as Cl, Br or I, or a sulfonate such as methanesulfonate, (4-methyl)benzenesulfonate or trifluoromethanesulfonate, and A and $R^6$ are as hereinbefore defined; such as to produce a compound of formula (IA), wherein $R^4$ and $R^5$ are both hydrogen



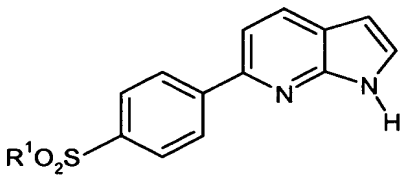
(IA)

and thereafter and if necessary,
interconverting said compound of formula (IA) into another compound of formula (IA); and/or

deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (IA).

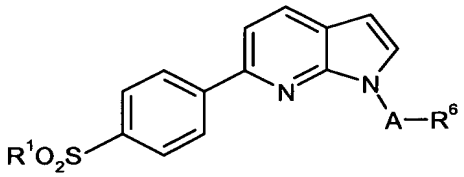
15. (Original) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (IB), as defined in claim 3, where each of $R^4$ and $R^5$ is hydrogen, which comprises:

reacting a compound $R^6$-A-X (II) or a protected derivative thereof, with a compound of formula (III)



(III)

where X is a halogen, such as Cl, Br or I, or a sulfonate, such as methanesulfonate, (4-methyl)benzenesulfonate or trifluoromethanesulfonate, and $R^6$ and A are as hereinbefore defined, to produce a compound of formula (IB) in accordance with the present invention :



(IB)

and thereafter and if necessary,
interconverting said compound of formula (IB) into another compound of formula (I); and/or

deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (IB).

16. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as defined in ~~any of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 10~~ in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

17. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I) as defined in ~~any of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 10~~ for use in human or veterinary medicine.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by COX-2 which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in ~~any of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 10~~.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from an inflammatory disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in ~~any of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 10~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in ~~any of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 10~~ for the manufacture of a therapeutic agent for the treatment of a condition which is mediated by COX-2.

21. (Currently Amended) The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in ~~any of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 10~~ for the manufacture of a therapeutic agent for the treatment of an inflammatory disorder.